

From what dreadful evils hath my son been rescued, by a death which I rashly bewailed as unfortunate and premature; a death of innocence and peace, which hath blessed his memory upon earth, and transmitted his spirit to the skies."

"Cast away the dagger, replied the heavenly messenger, which thou wast preparing to plunge into thine own heart. Exchange complaint for silence, and doubt for adoration. Can a mortal look down without giddiness and stupefaction into the vast abyss of eternal wisdom? Can a mind less than infinite, perfectly comprehend any thing among an infinity of objects mutually relative? Can the channels cut to receive the annual inundations of the Nile or the Ganges, contain the waters of the ocean? Remember that perfect happiness cannot be conferred on a creature; for perfect happiness is an attribute as incommunicable as perfect power and eternity."

While the angel was speaking thus, he stretched out his pinions to fly back to the empyreum; and the flutter of his wings was like the rushing of a cataract.

MORAL

Learn hence the wisdom of resignation to the disposal of Omnipotence, and the folly of discontent in the station thou art placed in.

THE



THE
VIRTUOUS COURT
AN EASTERN TALE

Virtue is its own Reward.

THE Califf Mahadi, of the race of Abassides, was a lover of letters and pleasures. Jacob was his favourite, who, like his master, had a taste for fine arts. Jacob sung delightfully, possessed an uncommon share of vivacity and genius. When the prince gave an entertainment, he could not enjoy it without Jacob's musical voice, and the bright flash of his wit. He would often even ad-